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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Report on the fifty-fifth session (13 December 2011 and 12-16 March 2012)

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Note

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The report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fifth session, to be held on 6 and 7 December 2012, will be issued as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 8A* (E/2012/28/Add.1).

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fifth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-sixth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fifth session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session set out below.

Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Operational segment

3. Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions:
    (a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;
    (b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:
        (i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
        (ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions.

Normative segment

4. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
    (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

(b) International Narcotics Control Board;

(c) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

(d) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.

5. Round-table discussions on progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem:

(a) Demand reduction and related measures;

(b) Supply reduction and related measures;

(c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation.

6. Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem:

(a) Demand reduction and related measures;

(b) Supply reduction and related measures;

(c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation.

7. World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

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8. Preparations for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

9. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.

10. Other business.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session.

Draft decision II

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011.[1]

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[1] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XI.5).

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The following resolutions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 55/1

Promoting international cooperation in responding to the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Concerned that new psychoactive substances are increasingly being marketed as legal alternatives to internationally controlled drugs and that these substances may pose risks to public health and safety,

Acknowledging the dynamic and fast-paced nature of this market and the increasing role that the Internet plays in the trade of new psychoactive substances,

Deeply concerned about reports of the increased and emerging use of and trade in new psychoactive substances that may have effects similar to those of internationally controlled drugs,[2]

Concerned about the potential opportunities for transnational organized criminal groups to exploit the market for these substances,

Noting that a number of new psychoactive substances that have already been identified as posing serious risks to public health are subject to domestic control within certain Member States,

Noting also that the identification and control of emerging new psychoactive substances can pose challenges to effective health and law enforcement regulation,

Recalling its resolution 48/1 of 11 March 2005, on promoting the sharing of information on emerging trends in the abuse of and trafficking in substances not controlled under the international drug control conventions,

Recalling also its resolution 53/11 of 12 March 2010, on promoting the sharing of information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists,

Recalling further the functions mandated to the World Health Organization, under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[3] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[4] to provide medical and scientific recommendations to the Commission with regard to assessing the potential liability for abuse and ill effects of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

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[2] See the *World Drug Report 2011* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.10).

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

Welcoming the 2011 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled "Synthetic cannabinoids in herbal products", which provides a comprehensive review and valuable recommendations in response to synthetic cannabinoids,

Acknowledging the success of the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in improving understanding of the synthetic drug problem through monitoring the illicit manufacture and use of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, including emerging synthetic substances, and noting the progress in implementation of that approach,

Acknowledging also the work of States members of the European Union, together with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, in developing effective processes for addressing new psychoactive substances, including an early warning system and risk assessment methodologies,

1. *Encourages* Member States to monitor emerging trends in the composition, production and distribution of new psychoactive substances, as well as patterns of use of those substances within their own national borders;

2. *Urges* Member States to share that information, through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels, in particular with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and regulation of new psychoactive substances, with other Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

3. *Encourages* Member States, based on the available information on patterns of use and risks to the public, including risks to young people, to adopt appropriate measures aimed at reducing supply and demand in accordance with their national legislation;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to take measures to tackle the problem of new psychoactive substances, in accordance with their national legislation, by improving research, analysis and forensic and toxicological capability and advancing the monitoring of such substances, including sales through the Internet, through, but not limited to, the provision of bilateral technical assistance to Member States, and to share that information, where appropriate, with Member States;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international organizations, upon request, to provide Member States with technical assistance, including by supporting forensic and toxicological capability, to respond to the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances;

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider a wide variety of responses, such as temporary and emergency drug control measures in response to an imminent threat to public health, the use of consumer protection, medicines legislation and hazardous substances legislation, and, where appropriate, to consider criminal justice measures aimed at preventing the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in new psychoactive substances;

7. *Urges* Member States, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, to further cooperate, in accordance with national law, in judicial and law enforcement activities to tackle the trade in and distribution and manufacture of those new psychoactive substances that have already been identified as posing risks to public health and that are subject to control within certain Member States;

8. *Calls on* Member States to cooperate, where appropriate, in addressing the possible public health risks of new psychoactive substances, and to share information and expertise on effective responses with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization;

9. *Encourages* the World Health Organization, pursuant to article 3 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[5] and article 2 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[6] to fulfil its mandate to review substances for possible scheduling recommendations to the Commission, so that the Commission can fulfil its mandate under those same articles;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance the collection of information on new psychoactive substances, including through existing mechanisms such as the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme, within its current financial and technical capacity, and considering the need for new mechanisms;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to exchange information on new psychoactive substances, where appropriate, with relevant international organizations and global and regional cooperation frameworks, including the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization;

12. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, to increasingly share information on new psychoactive substances;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide an update to its 2011 report entitled "Synthetic cannabinoids in herbal products", addressing a wider range of new psychoactive substances, in addition to synthetic cannabinoids, and to take into consideration the creation of a compilation of new psychoactive substances encountered by Member States, to serve as an early warning advisory;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission, at its fifty-sixth session, on progress made with respect to the activities described in the present resolution;

15. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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[5] Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

Resolution 55/2

Promoting programmes aimed at the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug-dependent persons released from prison settings

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[7] and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[8]

Recalling also the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[9] and, in particular, the need to assist drug abusers, to the extent possible, in their rehabilitation and social reintegration,

Recalling further the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,[10] adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in which Member States expressed their conviction of the importance of preventing youth crime and supporting the rehabilitation of young offenders and their reintegration into society, including efforts to prevent their revictimization, as well as of, in general, addressing the treatment of prisoners,

Considering that in prison settings in many countries of the world there are a significant number of drug-dependent persons and that the need for treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities is common all over the world,

Concerned that drug-dependent persons released from prison settings are at high risk of relapse or reoffending unless provided with appropriate continued treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services,

Considering that such a situation may lead to high levels of drug-related crime,

Stressing the importance of a multisectoral and fully coordinated approach in which multiple government agencies and non-governmental organizations within communities participate in order to support the development of a full continuum of policies and programmes that promote prevention, early detection and intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, acting within its mandate, can play an important role in addressing the strategies focusing on the treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons released from prison settings,

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[7] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[10] General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

1. *Invites* Member States to develop, implement and enhance measures, as appropriate, facilitating continued treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services for drug-dependent persons being released from prison settings;

2. *Also invites* Member States to consider, as appropriate, developing or strengthening regulatory frameworks for the implementation of the measures mentioned above;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, where appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, developing and implementing pre-release and post-release programmes aimed at preventing relapse and reoffending;

4. *Encourages* Member States to integrate those measures addressing the specific needs of drug-dependent persons released from prison settings into comprehensive national strategies on drug demand reduction;

5. *Recommends* that Member States ensure that service providers have access to the training and acquire the skills necessary to work with drug-dependent persons in pre-release and post-release programmes, in order to assist their treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services;

6. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, to collect and disseminate information on relevant experiences of evidence-based treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and measures, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to include rehabilitation- and reintegration-oriented modules for drug-dependent persons being released from prison settings in its relevant technical assistance and training programmes that are aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities;

8. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission, at its fifty-seventh session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

Resolution 55/3

One hundredth anniversary of the International Opium Convention

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Highlighting the International Opium Commission, the first multilateral initiative in the field of drug control, which was convened in Shanghai, China, from 1 to 26 February 1909, and that representatives of thirteen States, namely, Austria-Hungary, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Persia,[11] Portugal, Russia, Siam[12] and the United States of America, participated in the deliberations,

Noting that as follow-up to the International Opium Commission, the first-ever multilateral drug control convention, the International Opium Convention signed at The Hague on 23 January 1912,[13] formed the basis for the development of the international drug control system,

Underscoring that the international community, being concerned with the health and welfare of mankind, further recognized the importance of expanding controls to promote adequate availability of internationally controlled licit drugs for medical and scientific purposes while recognizing its duty to combat and prevent their diversion and abuse, including in the following conventions:

(*a*) The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[14] in which it is recognized that the medical use of narcotic drugs continues to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provision must be made to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for such purposes, while at the same time limiting such use exclusively to scientific and medicinal purposes;

(*b*) The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[15] in which it is recognized that the use of psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes is indispensable and that their availability for such purposes should not be unduly restricted,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[16] which recognizes the links between illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances and other related organized criminal activities which undermine the legitimate economies and threaten the stability, security and the sovereignty of States,

Reaffirming the important role entrusted to the International Narcotics Control Board to ensure, in cooperation with Governments, the availability of narcotic drugs for medical and scientific purposes and prevent illicit trafficking in and use of drugs,

Recognizing the great progress made by the international community in international drug control efforts,

Aware of the challenges that remain in the field of global drug control,

Stressing the importance of commitment, common and shared responsibility and international cooperation in efforts to fight the world drug problem,

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[11] Now referred to in the United Nations as the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[12] Now referred to in the United Nations as Thailand.

[13] League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. VIII, No. 222.

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[15] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[16] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Expressing the determination to strengthen action and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels towards the goals of those conventions, which remain the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

1. *Invites* all Member States to commemorate the centennial of the International Opium Convention signed at The Hague on 23 January 1912,[17] including by calling attention to the common and shared responsibility of all States to address the world drug problem;

2. *Reaffirms* that the three international drug control conventions, as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols,[18] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[19] and other relevant international instruments, constitute the international framework for countering drug trafficking and transnational organized crime;

3. *Also reaffirms* its unwavering commitment to ensure that all aspects of demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[20] and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

4. *Affirms* that the three international drug control conventions, which are moving towards universal adherence, seek to achieve a balance between ensuring the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control for medical and scientific purposes and preventing their diversion and abuse;

5. *Urges* all Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to those instruments and to adopt appropriate measures to effectively implement their provisions at the national level;

6. *Urges* States to take effective measures at the national, regional and international levels to coordinate their actions and intensify and strengthen their cooperation in order to prevent and act against the world drug problem.

Resolution 55/4

Follow-up on the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

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[17] League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. VIII, No. 222.

[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[19] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[20] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[21] that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[22] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[23] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[24]

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[25] the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[26] the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[27] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[28] and, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals referring to extreme poverty and hunger (goal 1) and ensuring environmental sustainability (goal 7),[29]

Stressing the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[30]

Recalling its resolution 52/6 of 20 March 2009, entitled "Promoting best practices and lessons learned for the sustainability and integrality of alternative development programmes", in which it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with relevant international bodies, to continue promoting best practices and lessons learned from alternative development programmes in various countries, including by organizing an international conference on that topic in 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 53/6 of 12 March 2010, entitled "Follow-up to the promotion of best practices and lessons learned for the sustainability and integrality of alternative development programmes and the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development", in which it welcomed the proposal of Peru and Thailand to jointly host an international workshop, back to back with an international conference, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and its resolution 54/4 of 25 March 2011, entitled "Follow-up on the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development", in which it noted with appreciation that Peru and Thailand remained committed to jointly organizing the above-mentioned events, while also taking into account that close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was needed to share information and best practices and increase efforts in promoting that sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops,

Reaffirming the role played by developing countries in sharing best practices and promoting and strengthening cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, which includes in some cases preventive alternative development, including cross-continental and interregional cooperation and subregional and regional technical cooperation, as expressed in its resolution 53/6,

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[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[22] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[23] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[24] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[25] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[26] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

[27] General Assembly resolution 217/A (III).

[28] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[29] A/56/326, annex.

[30] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Recognizing the ongoing discussion within the framework of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union on the implementation of a mechanism that encourages international market dynamics by facilitating and protecting the production, commercialization and consumption of products of licit origin with added value from vulnerable and affected areas through the use of a global stamp on "alternative development and preventive alternative development", in conformity with the multilateral trade rules,

1. *Acknowledges* that alternative development[31] is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of the efforts made by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies;

2. *Expresses appreciation* to the Government of Thailand for the organization of the International Seminar Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development, held in the provinces of Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai from 6 to 11 November 2011, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with the aim of sharing best practices and lessons learned in alternative development, gathering inputs and contributions and assessing past and ongoing efforts for the future endeavour of developing a set of international guiding principles to serve as guidelines for more effective alternative development programmes in drug-producing areas;

3. *Welcomes* the note by the Secretariat on the follow-up to the promotion of best practices and lessons learned for the sustainability and integrality of alternative development programmes and the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development,[32] in particular its annex containing inputs for the draft international guiding principles on alternative development, which were unanimously agreed by participants at the International Workshop on Alternative Development;

4. *Emphasizes* that the inputs for the draft international guiding principles are to be considered by the high-level representatives attending the International Conference on Alternative Development, to be held in Lima on 15 and 16 November 2012, and in that regard requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to invite Member States to provide their comments on the above-mentioned inputs, with a view to submitting them to that conference for its consideration;

5. *Looks forward* to the above-mentioned International Conference on Alternative Development, to be hosted by the Government of Peru;

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[31] In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/33, 2007/12 and 2008/26, the concept of alternative development includes preventive alternative development in a manner focusing on the sustainability and integrality of uplifting people's livelihood.

[32] E/CN.7/2012/8 and Add.1.

6. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, international financial institutions, donors, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders involved in development-oriented drug policies to send high-level representatives, accompanied by relevant experts, as appropriate, to actively participate in the International Conference on Alternative Development to be held in Peru;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the outcome of the Conference and the international guiding principles on alternative development, including the deliberations and recommendations of the conference.

Resolution 55/5

Promoting strategies and measures addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Stressing the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[33] adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, in which it was stated that Member States should ensure that a broad range of drug demand reduction services provided approaches that took into account gender considerations and served the needs of vulnerable groups,

Recalling the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[34] which states that demand reduction programmes should be effective, relevant and accessible to those groups most at risk, taking into account differences in gender, culture and education,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[35] which states that women are entitled to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Recalling further the commitments that must be made to inform all activities of the United Nations system with respect to the human rights of women, as expressed in the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[36]

Reaffirming the commitments to end all discrimination against women expressed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

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[33] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[34] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

[35] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[36] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Against Women,[37] and in specific the commitment to achieve equal treatment for women in access to health services,

Recalling the commitments made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[38] to promote gender equality,

Recalling also that the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*[39] stressed that access to care for women was still very problematic in several regions,

Recalling further its resolution 54/5 of 25 March 2011, in which it recognized that drug dependence was a chronic but preventable and treatable multifactorial health disorder, and stressing the need to provide a full continuum of policies and programmes that promote prevention, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services for rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery,

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[40] which states that women have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and convinced that girls and women should be provided access to health services developed specifically for their needs,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/228 of 21 December 2010, in which the Assembly adopted the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and General Assembly resolution 65/229 of 21 December 2010, in which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),

Recognizing that there is a need for more evidence-based information on all aspects of substance abuse, in particular regarding women-specific aspects, including physiological and psychosocial effects, the characteristics of women with substance use problems and their treatment experiences and also a need to use that information while developing and implementing programmes and strategies,

Concerned that women with substance abuse problems are often deprived of or limited in their access to effective treatment that takes into account their specific needs and circumstances,

Aware that enhanced educational and employment opportunities for women significantly decrease the risk of their drug abuse and dependence and their involvement in drug-related crimes,

Taking into account the need to develop and implement drug demand reduction measures so that they respond best to the specific needs of drug-dependent women and women who abuse drugs, including designated services specifically devoted to those women,

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[37] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[38] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[39] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.I.7.

[40] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

Noting with great concern the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, reaffirming its commitment to tackle those problems in the context of comprehensive, complementary and multisectoral drug demand reduction strategies, in particular such strategies targeting youth, noting with great concern the alarming rise in the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among injecting drug users, reaffirming its commitment to work towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes and treatment, care and related support services, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, taking into account all relevant General Assembly resolutions and, when applicable, the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*,[41] and requesting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to carry out its mandate in this area in close cooperation with relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,

1. *Urges* Member States to consider incorporating female-oriented programmes in their drug policies and strategies;

2. *Encourages* Member States to integrate essential female-specific services in the overall design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes addressing drug abuse and dependence, where needed;

3. *Recommends* that Member States consider and accommodate the specific needs of drug-dependent parents, including childcare and parental education;

4. *Also recommends* that Member States, in designing, implementing and evaluating integrated drug prevention and treatment and HIV prevention programmes, take into account the needs of women who have experienced sexual and other violent trauma related to drug abuse;

5. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the specific needs of women in the prevention, early detection and intervention, treatment and care of drug dependence and drug-related diseases, including infectious diseases and psychiatric disorders, as well as related support services, including for rehabilitation, reintegration and recovery, and to consider designing those services using a multi-agency approach so as to include specific female-oriented measures, promoting effective modalities such as special group offerings for women in inpatient and outpatient settings, family-based treatment and extra occupational training for women as part of recovery activities;

6. *Invites* Member States to consider implementing, where needed, female-oriented guidelines and quality standards in their drug policies in order to maximize coherence with existing activities, efficient allocation of resources and positive outcomes for drug-dependent women and their children;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider promoting the implementation of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the

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[41] Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009.

United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), particularly those provisions related to prevention and treatment programmes designed for women substance abusers, including those in prison settings, taking into account incidents of violence against women, prior victimization, the special needs of pregnant women and women with children, and their diverse cultural backgrounds;

8. *Urges* Member States to identify and firmly counter discrimination against, as well as degrading and undignified treatment of, drug-dependent women and women who abuse drugs, while simultaneously offering such women timely access to counselling, including voluntary HIV counselling and testing, and treatment and support services for rehabilitation and social integration that take into account the specific needs of women, including parental responsibilities and recovery from trauma related to drug abuse suffered as a result of sexual or other forms of violence;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider providing a wide range of measures that match the specific needs of women affected by drug abuse, including pregnant women and women who are parents or guardians with children;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to pay due attention to the specific needs of women while applying the relevant target goals as set forth in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/277 of 10 June 2011 and incorporating those goals in their relevant national strategies and measures as set forth in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;[42]

11. *Invites* the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute to share with it and with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime the information on experiences with respect to relevant programmes and measures addressing specific needs of women, with a view to considering appropriate follow-up measures;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to raise awareness among United Nations agencies regarding the need to design educational and employment opportunity modules that may be used in programmes and strategies to prevent drug abuse and dependence and the involvement of women in drug-related crimes;

13. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to work with relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, to assist and support Member States in developing and adapting measures and strategies, at the national, regional and international levels, addressing the specific needs of women as an essential element of more effective, just and human rights-based policies;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate the gathering and dissemination of information provided by Member States on their efforts to implement the present resolution;

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[42] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

15. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to integrate into its future public-awareness campaigns information emphasizing the importance of an integrated approach to the specific needs of women;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to coordinate as appropriate with civil society and the private sector in addressing the specific needs of women in the context of drug demand reduction, with a view to the expansion of the range and coverage of programmes addressing drug abuse and dependence of women, in accordance with national legislation and in full compliance with the international drug control conventions;

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 55/6

Developing an international electronic import and export authorization system for licit trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its resolution 50/7 of 16 March 2007, in which it urged Member States to pay particular attention to security measures concerning import and export documents relating to substances under international control,

Recalling also article 31 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[43] and article 12 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[44] which require the issuance of import and export authorizations for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Noting that there has been an increased volume of international trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances over the past decade, which has increased the workload of competent national authorities with respect to administering the system of import and export authorization for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances foreseen in the above-mentioned Conventions,

Reaffirming that ensuring access to controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes is one of the fundamental objectives of the international drug control conventions,

Recalling the publication entitled *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board on the Availability of Internationally Controlled Drugs: Ensuring Adequate Access for Medical and Scientific Purposes*,[45] a supplement to the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010,[46] which highlighted the fact that the consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in many countries has been below the levels required to ensure the adequate availability of those narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and/or scientific purposes and provided recommendations on how to increase access to those substances while preventing their diversion for illicit purposes,

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[43] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[44] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[45] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.7.

[46] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.1).

Recognizing that some Governments have followed the recommendations contained in the above-mentioned publication and taken measures to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, which will lead to further increases in international trade in those substances and subsequently increase the workload of competent national authorities with respect to issuing import and export authorizations for those substances,

Welcoming the fact that technological advancements have enabled some Governments to develop or utilize national systems for issuing import and export authorizations electronically, including the National Drug Control System developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and that those national systems have significantly improved the efficiency of workflow,

Noting that, under the current international agreements, none of those national systems of competent national authorities may directly transmit notifications of authorizations to, or receive them from, their counterparts in other countries and that such notifications of import and export authorizations are still sent in the form of hard-copy printouts,

Concerned that the exchange of paper documents not only increases the risk of forgery, but also increases the workload of receiving authorities and may delay legitimate transactions, as the authorities must verify the authenticity of import or export authorizations,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen security and safety measures concerning import and export authorizations in order to avoid forgery of those authorizations and prevent trafficking in controlled substances,

Welcoming the consideration of the initiative of the International Narcotics Control Board to develop an international electronic import and export authorization system for substances under international control, which would complement existing national electronic systems and facilitate the exchange of import and export authorizations between importing and exporting countries,

Noting that the initiative also represents an opportunity for competent national authorities to exchange information in real time about transactions that need further processing,

Acknowledging that the International Narcotics Control Board, in its report for 2011,[47] drew the attention of Governments to the positive results of preliminary research and consultations carried out by interested Governments, the Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the technical requirements of an international electronic import and export authorization system,

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[47] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XI.5).

Taking note of the fact that the further development of such an authorization system would rely on voluntary contributions from Member States,

1. *Encourages* Member States to provide the fullest possible financial and political support for developing, maintaining and administering an international electronic import and export authorization system for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control, in accordance with the requirements of the international drug control conventions;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to undertake the development and maintenance of the authorization system, in consultation with interested Governments and the International Narcotics Control Board;

3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider taking into account domestic requirements while developing the proposed system;

4. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist, upon request, Member States that have not established electronic import and export authorization systems;

5. *Invites* the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, in carrying out its mandate, to administer the authorization system during the start-up phase in the current biennium, in line with the international drug control conventions, and to report orally on the progress made during the next session of the Commission;

6. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 55/7

Promoting measures to prevent drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reiterating the commitments made in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[48] in the preamble to which the parties to the Convention expressed concern for the health and welfare of mankind; recognition that the medical use of narcotic drugs continues to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provision must be made to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for medical purposes; and recognition that addiction to narcotic drugs constitutes a serious evil for individuals and is fraught with social and economic danger to mankind,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[49] which stressed the need to strengthen efforts aimed at reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, taking into consideration all health consequences, such as overdose,

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[48] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[49] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Taking note of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/132 of 17 December 1999, which, inter alia, recognized that demand reduction programmes should cover all areas of drug abuse prevention, ranging from discouraging the initial use of illicit drugs to reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse,

Recalling its resolution 43/3 of 15 March 2000, in which the Commission requested Member States to find strategies and increase access to and availability of services designed to reach drug users who are not integrated into or reached by existing services and are at high risk of severe health damage, drug-related infectious diseases and even fatal incidents, in order to reduce individual and public health risks,

Reaffirming that the prevention of all drug abuse is of primary importance to all Member States,

Noting that the *World Drug Report 2011*[50] highlighted the high proportion of drug overdose deaths that are specifically associated with opioids,

Convinced of the need to improve the quality, coverage and variety of drug demand reduction and related measures, including those targeting the prevention of drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose, as part of a continuum of health and social care,

Understanding that opioid overdose treatment, including the provision of opioid receptor antagonists such as naloxone, is part of a comprehensive approach to services for drug users and can reverse the effects of opioids and prevent mortality,

Recognizing that a range of factors contribute to drug overdose, including mental health problems and polysubstance use, indicating the need for a comprehensive response that includes supply reduction, information-sharing, education, emergency responses and treatment,

Affirming that close cooperation at all levels among experts from the criminal justice, health, social and drug control sectors is critical in devising an effective and scientific evidence-based response to dr[illegible] overdose prevention, in particular opioid overdose prevention, for drug users,

Recognizing that fatalities due to drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose, can be substantially reduced through effective drug abuse prevention strategies, the provision of information, counselling, education, drug treatment, and related support measures, monitoring and programming,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to include effective elements for the prevention and treatment of drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose, in national drug policies, where appropriate, and to share best practices and information on the

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[50] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.10.

prevention and treatment of drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose, including the use of opioid receptor antagonists such as naloxone;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and upon the request of and in collaboration with Member States, to collect and circulate available best practices on the prevention and treatment of and emergency response to drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose, including on the use and availability of opioid receptor antagonists such as naloxone and other measures based on scientific evidence;[51]

3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations, including the World Health Organization, as appropriate, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to provide Member States, upon request, with advice and guidance based on scientific evidence, and provide capacity-building, on preventing mortality from drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose;

4. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations, including the World Health Organization, as appropriate, to include initiatives to prevent mortality from drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose, and related mental health issues as part of their drug demand reduction programming;

5. *Encourages* Member States, with support where requested from the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, to strive to ensure that all efforts are made to implement comprehensive supply and demand reduction programmes that promote the health and well-being of their citizens in accordance with national legislation;

6. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 55/8

Follow-up to the Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem with respect to the development of strategies on special marketing regimes for alternative development, including preventive alternative development

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[52] the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[53] and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[54] adopted in 2009, including article 49 (b) of the Plan of Action, in which Member States were advised that they should develop strategies consistent with domestic legal frameworks, including the utilization of local expertise, capacity-building and entrepreneurship, to develop products through alternative development[55] programmes identified on the basis of market demand and value-added production chains, as well as secure and stable markets with fair prices for producers, in accordance with international trade rules, including the required infrastructure and a conducive environment, including roads, the establishment of farmer associations and the use of special marketing regimes, for example, those based on fair-trade principles and commerce in organic products,

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[51] See, for example, the World Health Organization's *Guidelines for the Psychosocially Assisted Pharmacological Treatment of Opioid Dependence* (Geneva, 2009).

[52] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Reaffirming its resolution 45/14 of 15 March 2002, in which it invited Member States to make more comprehensive and determined efforts in the area of financial and technical cooperation aimed at promoting alternative development, including preventive alternative development, with the understanding that such cooperation, in the long term, may achieve positive results that not only satisfy economic criteria but also take into account social, political and environmental factors,

Reaffirming also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/37 of 22 July 2003, entitled "Strengthening alternative development through trade and socio-environmental preservation", in which the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and all Member States were urged to continue to cooperate effectively on programmes to promote alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the provisions of Commission resolution 45/14,

Considering that alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, constitutes an international policy founded on the principle of shared responsibility that seeks to discourage the cultivation of illicit crops in countries affected by that problem and those vulnerable to illicit activities relating to the chain of production and stockpiling of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Taking into account the need to strengthen and renew international cooperation measures in order to be able to effectively address the changing dynamics of the world drug problem,

Noting with concern that there is a high risk that licit crops grown adjacent to areas of illicit crop cultivation will be displaced or replaced by illicit crop cultivation,

Recognizing the need to promote products of licit origin stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development programmes, including those products with added value from areas affected by and vulnerable to the world drug problem, thus creating and promoting licit economic options for populations and their territories,

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[53] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[54] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[55] In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/33 and 2007/12, the concept of alternative development includes preventive alternative development.

Noting that the use of special marketing regimes, for example, those based on fair-trade principles and commerce in organic products, may be an effective strategy to increase the success of projects for alternative development, including preventive alternative development,

Taking note of the presentation made by the Government of Ecuador to participants at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, entitled "The global stamp for alternative development and preventive alternative development", describing a proposal for a global stamp for products of alternative development, including preventive alternative development, which had also been presented at the Thirteenth High-level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union, held in Bogota on 28 and 29 June 2011,

1. *Invites* Member States, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, to promote legal options that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and that contribute comprehensively to alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, for populations being affected by or at risk of being affected by illicit drug crop cultivation and related activities;

2. *Encourages* Member States, when appropriate and in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[56] to undertake efforts to protect populations living in affected and vulnerable areas, including areas where licit crops are at risk of displacement by illicit crops because licit crops are grown adjacent to illicit crops;

3. *Encourages* participatory approaches from all stakeholders, including groups at risk of starting to illicitly cultivate crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in the identification, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of alternative development;

4. *Encourages* Member States to reach out to States not affected by illicit drug crop cultivation and to the private sector with a view to providing greater access to markets for alternative development products, consistent with national and international obligations, and taking into account applicable multilateral trade rules;

5. *Encourages* Member States to engage in dialogue and share experiences and proposals on special marketing regimes in the field of alternative development, including preventive alternative development, such as a global stamp for products stemming from alternative development programmes, and invites Member States to consider these issues at the International Conference on Alternative Development, to be hosted by the Governments of Thailand and Peru in Lima on 15 and 16 November 2012, and other appropriate forums;

6. *Invites* Member States to share their experiences with and proposals on special marketing regimes, including a global stamp for products stemming from

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[56] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in connection with the report on the outcome of the International Conference on Alternative Development, to be prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 55/4 of 16 March 2012, entitled "Follow-up on the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development".

Resolution 55/9

Follow-up on measures to support African States in their efforts to combat the world drug problem

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[57] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[58] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[59]

Recalling also the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[60] taking into account the principle of shared and common responsibility,

Recalling further the outcomes of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 13 to 17 September 2010,

Reaffirming the provisions of its resolution 54/14 of 25 March 2011 on measures to support African States in their efforts to combat the world drug problem,

Bearing in mind the commitments set out at the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, held in Addis Ababa from 28 September to 2 October 2010, to fight the illicit cultivation and abuse of cannabis, actively address the control of precursor chemicals and develop adequate monitoring and regulatory systems for ensuring the availability of drugs for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse,

Taking note with concern of the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the world situation with regard to drug abuse, in which it was highlighted that there is a lack of current information on most epidemiological indicators on drug use, caused by a lack of reliable drug information and sustainable monitoring systems in some parts of the world, which hinders the monitoring of changing and emerging trends, the implementation of evidence-based responses and the ability to assess the effectiveness of those responses,

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[57] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[58] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[59] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[60] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Noting with concern the challenges posed by the links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of transnational organized crime,

Recalling that in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States took account of the need for indicators and instruments for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of the world drug problem,

Acknowledging the progress made by African States in the implementation of the Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012) and the mechanism for its implementation, follow-up and evaluation,

Recognizing the importance of subregional programmes developed and/or implemented by African States, as well as by African States in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Welcoming the progress made by African States in combating the world drug problem, and reaffirming the importance of viable and sustainable alternative development programmes aimed at contributing to the fight against the production of illicit drugs,

Looking forward to the adoption of the African Union plan of action on drug control and crime prevention (2013-2018) at the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, to be held in Addis Ababa in December 2012,

1. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other partners, as well as the intergovernmental regional bodies, to continue their work in countering drug trafficking and organized crime, in particular the activities aimed at enhancing the capacity of the national agencies of Member States;

2. *Invites* Member States, in close consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, donors and other relevant international organizations, to provide support, including financial support, taking into account specific needs and available resources, in capacity-building and quality-enhancing activities in support of the efforts of African States to combat the drug problem, with particular emphasis on the areas of law enforcement, forensic science laboratories, data-collection systems and services involved in prevention, treatment and social integration, the judiciary and the drafting of legislation;

3. *Also invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to support African States so as to achieve an effective implementation of the provisions of the three international drug control conventions, as well as the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[61] including strengthening their legal systems, enhancing the analytical work of laboratories and developing indicators and instruments for the

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[61] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all aspects of the drug problem in the region;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Resolution 55/10

Promoting evidence-based drug prevention strategies and policies

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[62] that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[63] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[64] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[65] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[66] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[67]

Recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[68] and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[69] adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

Recalling further its resolution 53/2 of 12 March 2010, entitled "Preventing the use of illicit drugs within Member States and strengthening international cooperation on policies of drug abuse prevention",

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, in particular youth,

Taking into account that the demand for drugs has a direct impact on the supply of drugs,

Aware of the violence generated by the world drug problem at all levels of the chain of consumption,

Recognizing that drug addiction is a chronic but preventable and treatable multifactorial health disorder,

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[62] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[63] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[64] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[65] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[66] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[67] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[68] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[69] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Noting that a considerable body of evidence developed through the science of prevention now exists,

Bearing in mind that, in order to reduce the adverse consequences of drug abuse, a comprehensive approach is crucial, which includes primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services,

Noting that conditions such as depression and anxiety, if not responded to effectively, may lead to the use of illicit drugs and addiction,

Bearing in mind that prevention measures must have an evidence-based approach to enhance their results, in particular regarding populations at risk,

Bearing in mind also that prevention is a developmental process, with exposure to risk changing at each life stage of individuals, and that prevention strategies should be designed for the domains where individuals encounter risks as they grow older,

Recognizing that families, schools, workplaces and communities, inter alia, serve as opportune domains for preventing drug use problems,

Welcoming the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in developing international standards on drug use prevention,

1. *Urges* Member States to develop, promote and implement cost-effective policies and interventions to prevent the use of illicit drugs, with special emphasis on children, youth and populations at risk and utilizing current academic, scientific and practitioner-based studies to achieve that objective;

2. *Also urges* Member States to continue to raise the awareness of policymakers of the risks and the threats posed to society by abuse of drugs and of the individual and social conditions that make people vulnerable to abusing drugs;

3. *Encourages* Member States to target their prevention programmes towards domains where individuals, in particular children and youth, are most likely to encounter illicit drugs;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and implement specific policies and interventions aimed at the healthy and safe development of children and youth that are particularly vulnerable to individual or environmental risks;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to take into account gender-specific services in their drug prevention systems;

6. *Encourages* Member States to promote public health and healthy lifestyles, such as physical activities, sport and recreation programmes, in order to facilitate drug prevention;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to engage in close coordination with all stakeholders in their societies to target prevention with a cross-cutting and multidisciplinary approach;

8. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue gathering information on national and international experiences and best practices, to make available information on evidence-based prevention activities and instruments and to provide States with guidance and assistance in developing

strategies and programmes to incorporate those successful experiences, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

9. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate, on both the bilateral and regional levels, to strengthen national capacities with respect to prevention policies and their implementation;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to exchange experiences and best practices on the prevention of the use of illicit drugs in families, schools, universities, workplaces, communities and other domains;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the measures taken and on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

Resolution 55/11

Follow-up to the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the commitments undertaken by Member States in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[70] in which Member States recognized that action against the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility and expressed their conviction that it must be addressed in a multilateral setting,

Welcoming the Paris Pact initiative, one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan and aimed at the reduction of illicit traffic in opiates, including opium poppy cultivation and production and global consumption of heroin and other opiates, and at the establishment of a broad international coalition to combat illicit traffic in opiates,

Welcoming also the international conferences of the Paris Pact partners at the ministerial level, held in Paris in 2003 and in Moscow in 2006, and looking forward to future such ministerial meetings on a regular basis,

Taking note with concern of the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2011*, in which it was stated that, despite the continued efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, in 2011, following a decrease in previous years, caused mostly by plant disease, estimated opium production there had significantly increased,

Noting with concern that the number of poppy-free provinces in the country decreased from 20 in 2010 to 17 in 2011 following increases in previous years, and acknowledging the strong link between lack of security and opium poppy cultivation,

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[70] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Noting also the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 on precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,[71] in which the Board stressed the need to implement the tools of precursor control provided by the international system of controls more comprehensively within countries and at the global level and emphasized that the diversion of some chemicals, such as acetic anhydride, from domestic distribution channels — with subsequent cross-border smuggling — had become the most common method of obtaining precursor chemicals for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including heroin,

Aware of the need to enhance coordinated, comprehensive and effective measures to reduce the cultivation of opium poppy and the production of, trafficking in and consumption of opiates, and noting that Paris Pact partners, in the Vienna Declaration adopted by the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan,[72] recognized the threat they pose to international peace and stability in different regions of the world,

Acknowledging the principle of full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States,

Noting that the sustained menace of illicit drugs adversely affects the social, economic, cultural and political foundations of society and undermines sustainable development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/11 of 25 July 2007, entitled "Support to the counter-narcotics measures and programmes of Afghanistan",

Welcoming the ongoing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in the fight against narcotic drugs,

Commending the activities carried out by the States neighbouring Afghanistan to promote cooperation aimed at countering the illicit traffic in opiates and the smuggling of their precursor chemicals into Afghanistan,

Expressing its support for the efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening international and regional cooperation in order to counter the threat to the international community posed by illicit traffic in opiates, paying due attention to strengthening and implementing regional initiatives to combat illicit traffic in opiates, detecting and blocking financial flows linked thereto, preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit manufacturing of opiates in Afghanistan and reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach,

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[71] *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XI.4).

[72] See E/CN.7/2012/17.

Acknowledging the importance of a regional approach in tackling the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and the production of and trafficking in opiates originating in Afghanistan,

Supporting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its efforts to coordinate effective and results-oriented assistance to Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, including through its regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries,

Bearing in mind the outcomes of the international conferences on Afghanistan held in Istanbul, Turkey, in November 2011 and in Bonn, Germany, in December 2011, which included counter-narcotics as a cross-cutting theme,

Recalling its resolution 54/7 of 25 March 2011, in which it welcomed the decision taken by the reconvened meeting of the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group, held in Vienna on 17 March 2011, to convene in Vienna in the second half of 2011, in continuation of the Paris Pact initiative, an international conference at the ministerial level, and encouraged that conference to contribute to strengthening the commitment of Member States to combating the illicit trade in opiates,

Convinced that the results of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held in Vienna on 16 February 2012, should be translated into effective action by States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, competent organs of the United Nations and other relevant actors,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the Paris Pact initiative;[73]

2. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, facilitated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in cooperation with the Governments of Austria, France and the Russian Federation, in continuation of the Paris Pact initiative;

3. *Expresses* its satisfaction with the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation that made the preparations for the Conference and the Conference itself a success;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and other competent international organizations, to promote the full implementation of the Vienna Declaration adopted by the Conference,[74] including, as appropriate, by means of facilitating partnerships with the private sector and civil society;

5. *Calls upon* the international community, including the Government of Afghanistan, to continue those efforts while making them more comprehensive, effective and results-oriented;

6. *Encourages* Member States to enhance coordination through existing regional mechanisms, including through the Paris Pact initiative, in order to

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[73] E/CN.7/2012/10.

[74] See E/CN.7/2012/17.

strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchange with a view to countering trafficking in opiates originating in Afghanistan;

7. *Notes* the importance of taking measures to ensure effective follow-up to the Conference;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the initiative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to prepare a compendium of concrete ideas and proposals aimed at strengthening the Paris Pact initiative and implementing the Vienna Declaration as expressed by Paris Pact partners at the Conference, which may be used by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its programme activities in consultation with Member States;

9. *Welcomes* the third phase of the Paris Pact and the operational outcome it is to deliver, and also welcomes the intention of Paris Pact partners to discuss the modalities of a fourth phase at their next Policy Consultative Group meeting after due evaluation of the third phase;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to cooperate with Member States in identifying and meeting the needs for technical assistance, including in the priority areas mentioned in the Vienna Declaration;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the work done in the preparations for and facilitation of the organization of the Conference;

12. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments of Austria and the Russian Federation for providing the extrabudgetary resources and facilities that were necessary to convene the Conference;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the measures taken and on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Invites* Member States and other donors to contribute extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations.

Resolution 55/12

Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and public safety

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to drug supply and demand reduction strategies, *Reaffirming* the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[75] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[76] the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction[77] and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[78]

Recalling that the international drug control conventions establish, to varying degrees and in specific situations, that States may provide, either as an alternative to conviction or punishment or in addition to conviction or punishment, that drug-using offenders should undergo measures of treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation or social reintegration,[79]

Recognizing that drug users who repeatedly commit criminal offences pose challenges and create costs for Member States, society and families through their need for effective supervision through imprisonment or other means, as appropriate,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/183 of 19 December 2011, on international cooperation against the world drug problem, in which the Assembly reiterated the commitment of Member States to promoting, developing, reviewing or strengthening effective, comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures, including primary prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support, rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts, aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole,

Recalling also the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, in which Member States stressed the need to reinforce alternatives to imprisonment, which may include community service, restorative justice and electronic monitoring, and support rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, including those to correct offending behaviour, and educational and vocational programmes for prisoners,

Noting that, in addressing the world drug problem, the main objective is to ensure the health and welfare of individuals, and that providing alternatives to imprisonment has, for some Member States, provided a successful means of promoting social reintegration with full respect for human rights,

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[75] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[76] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

[77] General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.

[78] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[79] Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152), art. 36, para. 1 (b); Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956), art. 22, para. 1 (b); United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627), art. 3, paras. 4 (b) and (c).

Taking note of the efforts of Member States to create new tools in support of comprehensive demand reduction policies, including but not restricted to alternatives to prosecution and imprisonment for drug-using offenders, including treatment, as appropriate,

Taking note also of the various systems used in Member States to provide treatment for drug dependence, including systems that offer such treatment as a matter of right in any setting, and systems that offer such treatment as an alternative to, or in addition to, imprisonment,

Recalling that, in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, it is noted that there are limited alternatives to prosecution and imprisonment for drug-using offenders and that treatment services within the criminal justice system are frequently inadequate,

Taking note that some Member States have adopted measures as alternatives to prosecution and imprisonment for drug-using offenders, and that such measures have included, among other things, specific legal procedures, community service and drug-use monitoring with consequences for non-compliance, and noting that such measures have been shown to reduce recidivism rates, facilitate rehabilitation and, at the same time, conserve human and financial resources, rebuild families and help to reconstitute the social fabric,

Stressing the importance of strengthening cooperation among competent authorities with a view to reinforcing treatment programmes, and emphasizing in that regard the potential benefits of coordination between the health and justice sectors in order to reduce drug abuse,

Acknowledging that for some Member States the application of alternative measures to prosecution and imprisonment of drug-using offenders is not provided for in national legislation and so is not applicable,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining the integrity of applicable national legislation, in particular criminal law,

1. *Encourages* Member States, working within their legal frameworks and in compliance with applicable international law, to consider allowing the full implementation of drug-dependence treatment and care options for offenders, in particular, when appropriate, providing treatment as an alternative to incarceration, in order to help strengthen drug demand reduction policies while promoting both public health and public safety;

2. *Invites* Member States that have successful experiences regarding the implementation of evidence-based alternative approaches to the prosecution and imprisonment of drug-using offenders to share their experiences and good practices, including examples of legislation, and to provide technical assistance to interested States, upon request;

3. *Encourages* Member States to promote coordination and cooperation between competent authorities, such as health, public security and justice authorities, as well as service providers, with a view to identifying and developing

cost-effective, evidence-based approaches, including but not restricted to exploring or implementing, where appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, alternatives to prosecution and imprisonment for drug-using offenders;

4. *Invites* Member States to consider including in their national anti-drug strategies alternative approaches to prosecution and imprisonment for drug-using offenders that could act as a valuable link between demand reduction programmes, particularly those relating to treatment, and the areas of law enforcement and justice;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide Member States, upon request, with guidance, tools and assistance in developing evidence-based alternative approaches to prosecution and imprisonment for drug-using offenders;

6. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make information on alternative approaches to prosecution and imprisonment for drug-using offenders, including research results of promising initiatives for public health and public safety, available to Member States, international organizations and donors;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the measures taken and on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

Chapter II

Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions

3. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 13 March, the Commission considered agenda item 3, which read as follows:

> "Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions.
>
> "(a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;
>
> "(b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
>
> "(i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
>
> "(ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions."

4. For its consideration of item 3, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2012/3-E/CN.15/2012/3);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (E/CN.7/2012/6-E/CN.15/2012/6);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2012/12-E/CN.15/2012/12);

(d) Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime adopted during the period 2008-2011 in which action by the Office was requested (E/CN.7/2012/15);

(e) Report on the reconvened fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2011/28/Add.1-E/CN.7/2011/15/Add.1);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.2).

5. At the 2nd meeting, the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made an introductory statement. The representative of Spain, speaking as co-chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also made an introductory statement.

6. Statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, Japan, Canada and the Russian Federation. Statements were also made by the observers for Nicaragua, Morocco, Norway, Argentina and Ecuador (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States).

A. Deliberations

7. Several speakers recognized the progress made by UNODC in creating an integrated approach by further developing effective regional programmes, and underlined the need for adequate, predictable and sustainable funding, while supporting the planned formulation of a fundraising strategy.

8. Speakers welcomed the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the Container Control Programme and the extension of the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme to the Americas. Examples of successful international cooperation that were mentioned included the West Africa Coast Initiative and cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States in support of the Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa for the period 2008-2011.

9. Several delegations noted the role of UNODC as co-chair of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability and underlined the importance of inter-agency cooperation.

10. Appreciation was expressed by a number of speakers for the internal guidance note on protection and promotion of human rights and the establishment of a UNODC human rights advisory group aiming at mainstreaming human rights into the operational work of the Office.

11. Several delegations stressed the importance of research, trend analysis and evaluation. Note was taken of the efforts made by UNODC to implement the recommendations made by oversight bodies and to establish a culture of evaluation through the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit, while enhancing transparency and accountability.

12. The importance of strategic planning, monitoring, result-based management and easily accessible reporting was underlined. Several speakers welcomed the strategy for the period 2012-2015 for UNODC and called for prioritization of the activities of the Office in line with that document. Given the similarities between the strategy and the two biennial programme plans (for the periods 2012-2013 and 2014-2015), delegations underlined that those documents should be aligned.

13. Several delegations welcomed the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and said that they looked forward to further discussions within the working group, including on the regional and thematic programmes of UNODC. It was also noted that, while the working group had facilitated discussion and mutually satisfactory outcomes, it was still possible to achieve further results. In addition, it was also mentioned that the sessions of the Commission would remain the main forum for discussing the governance and financial situation of UNODC.

14. A few delegations expressed concern about the impact of budgetary restrictions on the length and the availability in the official languages of the United Nations of reports of the Commission and its intergovernmental and expert working groups and called for creative and cost-effective solutions to the matter.

15. Several proposals were made to improve the financial situation of UNODC, such as seeking greater private sector support, taking on new commitments only with the standard programme support charge of 13 per cent and introducing general-purpose requirements in the budget of programmes.

B. Action taken by the Commission

16. At the 2nd meeting on 13 March 2012, and pursuant to its resolution 52/13, the Commission endorsed the nomination of Maria Oyeyinka Laose (Nigeria) to replace Taous Feroukhi (Algeria) as co-chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. At the same meeting, the Commission renewed the mandate of Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain) and of newly elected Maria Oyeyinka Laose as co-chairs of the working group until the part of the session of the Commission to be held in the first half of 2013.

Chapter III

Round-table discussions

17. On 12 March, the Commission considered agenda item 5, "Round-table discussions", comprising the following topics:

(a) Counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges;

(b) Measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

18. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the round-table discussions at the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions (E/CN.7/2011/8).

Round table on counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges

19. The round table on the topic "Counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges" was chaired by Khamkheuang Bounteum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations (Vienna). Regrettably, some participants were not able to address the round table owing to time constraints.

20. The Chair summarized the salient points of the round-table discussion as follows:

(a) Member States reiterated that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation. There was a need for a balanced and holistic approach to combating the world drug problem through national, regional and multilateral efforts, while maintaining respect for differences in the policies, ideologies and situations of countries;

(b) Member States mentioned that they should continue to assess the implementation of the commitments adopted in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem[90] in order to enhance progress towards effectively addressing the challenges posed by the world drug problem in the coming years, with the full assistance of relevant international agencies and in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector;

(c) Participants emphasized that UNODC should continue facilitating international cooperation to reduce the illicit demand for, illicit supply of and trafficking in drugs and to promote technical assistance projects aimed at addressing the world drug problem more effectively;

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[90] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

(d) Speakers highlighted that an operational definition of the principle of common and shared responsibility was lacking, as was a definition of the extent of each country's responsibilities and commitments in the fight against illicit drugs, and more work was needed in order to clarify the concept of common and shared responsibility. It was recognized by some delegations that under that principle, the distinction between producer, consumer and transit countries was no longer valid;

(e) Since the main objective of transnational organized crime was to make economic profits, steps had to be taken to focus the fight against illicit drugs on controlling the proceeds of crime, including efforts to control money-laundering. It was pointed out that seized assets could be reinvested in measures to reduce demand for illicit drugs;

(f) Participants stated that it was necessary to take concrete steps to eliminate opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and to set out criteria for alternative development, as well as to explore more ways of enhancing alternative development in that region and other regions and sharing experiences of successful models of alternative development;

(g) Participants mentioned that Africa bore the brunt of illicit drug trafficking and consumption, in addition to other threats such as terrorism and money-laundering. There was a need to enhance and strengthen the national capacities of the African States in the fight against the drug problem, and therefore it was important for those States to receive technical assistance in the law enforcement and justice sectors and in demand reduction;

(h) Particular concern was expressed with regard to the increase in illicit drug trafficking in Central America, which had occurred owing to its geographical location between major producer and consumer countries, and participants underlined the need to find alternative and more efficient strategies to fight that scourge, which generated high levels of violence and undermined the economic and social development of the region;

(i) Member States should strengthen the exchange of information and best practices at the bilateral, regional and international levels and strengthen joint operations and coordination, including in the area of preventive measures, and should support the use of intelligence-led law enforcement;

(j) Member States pointed out that supply reduction needed to be at the forefront, as demand reduction alone would not solve the drug problem. However, prevention, early intervention, treatment of drug abuse, and rehabilitation and reintegration of drug users were a fundamental part of drug policies;

(k) New challenges included the "northern route" and West Africa, which were increasingly being used for drug trafficking, especially in heroin and cocaine. Opiates were identified as the biggest problem, but it was also recognized that so-called designer drugs and "legal highs" were an increasing problem.

Round table on measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector

21. The round table on the topic "Measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector", was chaired by Igor Voblikov, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation and official representative of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation in Austria. Regrettably, some participants were not able to address the round table owing to time constraints.

22. The Chair summarized the salient points of the round-table discussion as follows:

(a) Participants emphasized that vigilance to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals to the manufacture of heroin, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants remained a priority of Member States;

(b) The diversion of acetic anhydride for use in the manufacture of heroin in Afghanistan remained of great concern, and regional cooperation efforts were encouraged to intercept and prevent that precursor from entering Afghanistan;

(c) Concern was expressed about the global increase in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. International cooperative efforts through the International Narcotics Control Board-coordinated projects Prism and Cohesion were recognized for their successes, as were the regional initiatives in which Member States cooperated against the diversion of precursor chemicals, such as Operation Canal and Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TARCET);

(d) Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online), managed by the International Narcotics Control Board, was regarded as an effective tool to prevent and identify attempts to divert precursor chemicals, and Member States were encouraged to use it;

(e) There was a call for Member States to review their chemical-control legislation to ensure that it met their needs to prevent diversion. It was observed that differing legislation applied by States and the different application of controls over specific chemicals at times caused difficulties in enforcement;

(f) Governments were encouraged to undertake an accurate assessment of their national needs for licit chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations so as to better identify attempts to divert them;

(g) The international monitoring of the 23 controlled precursor chemicals had revealed growth in the use of substitute substances to produce illicit drugs. In response, Governments were encouraged to introduce closed systems for monitoring the licit chemical industry, such as the introduction of licensing for those handling controlled substances;

(h) There was recognition that a number of Member States needed international support, owing to resource difficulties that precluded their effective monitoring of precursor chemicals and action against diversion attempts;

(i) Participants agreed that the private sector was a key partner in applying effective controls over precursor chemicals and should be included in national strategies to address diversion. Member States were encouraged to support collaboration at the national level between the public and private sector players that had a legitimate role in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

Chapter IV

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

23. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 13 and 14 March, the Commission considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

> "Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
>
> "(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
>
> "(b) International Narcotics Control Board;
>
> "(c) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
>
> "(d) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties."

24. For its consideration of item 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse (E/CN.7/2012/9);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in countering the covert administration of psychoactive substances related to sexual assault and other criminal acts (E/CN.7/2012/13);

(c) Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 (E/INCB/2011/1);

(d) Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/INCB/2011/4).

25. Introductory statements were made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board (under items 4 (b) and (c)), and a representative of the Secretariat (under item 4 (c)). Statements were made by the representative of Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and other States) and by the observer for Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States). Statements were also made by the representatives of Japan, China, the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Thailand, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, India, the Russian Federation, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Australia.

26. Statements were also made by the observers for Slovakia, Switzerland, Cuba, Indonesia, Finland and Sri Lanka, as well as by the observers for the European Union, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, International Harm Reduction Association and the Union for International Cancer Control. The observers representing non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made their interventions in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional

commissions of the Economic and Social Council and as endorsed by the extended Bureau of the Commission.

A. Deliberations

1. Changes in the scope of control of substances

27. Some speakers expressed particular concern with regard to the increasing abuse of ketamine and noted that the substance should be placed under international control. Many speakers noted the challenge of addressing emerging psychoactive substances of abuse that are not under international control and called for further efforts, while noting national and regional measures that had been put in place.

2. International Narcotics Control Board

28. Many speakers expressed appreciation and support for the work of the International Narcotics Control Board, noting its critical role in monitoring and promoting the implementation of the international drug control conventions. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the ongoing dialogue between Member States and the Board, including through the missions of the Board.

29. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the reports of the International Narcotics Control Board. Noting the thematic chapter of the Board's report for 2011, which addresses the drug problem faced in some marginalized communities, several speakers called for further attention to be paid to that issue. Two speakers requested clarification on specific aspects of the Board's report for 2011.

30. One delegate, speaking on behalf of a regional group, made reference to the importance of continuing the in-depth ongoing dialogue between Member States and the International Narcotics Control Board, which would enable the Board to appreciate the current situation and challenges facing the individual countries so that the Board's reports would continue to be integrated and impartial.

31. The Commission noted the Board's work in providing countries with timely information on imports and exports of internationally controlled substances and the key role it played in facilitating the availability of such substances for licit purposes while preventing diversion. The Commission also encouraged Governments to ensure that they furnished the Board with information pursuant to the drug control conventions in a timely manner. Many speakers acknowledged the progress achieved by the Board and UNODC, in collaboration with Member States, in developing an electronic import and export authorization system for substances under international control. Many speakers expressed their support for the further development and early implementation of the system, as it would expedite the exchange of electronic import and export authorizations between the competent national authorities of importing and exporting countries and would also facilitate mandatory reporting by Governments to the Board.

32. Reference was made to the increasing abuse of substances not under international control, and the challenge posed by illegal Internet pharmacies.

33. Some speakers drew attention to the increasing abuse of prescription drugs as well as the use of controlled substances in the commission of sexual assault and other crimes.

34. The role of the Board as a global focal point for the facilitation of precursor control initiatives was recognized, and the Commission noted the need for increased utilization of the PEN Online system and encouraged countries not yet using the system to do so. Some speakers noted the increasing use of pre-precursors and the manufacture of precursor chemicals using substances not under international control. Some speakers noted trends in the diversion of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine and called for further measures by the international community to prevent such diversion.

35. Examples of national efforts in drug control were presented, and some speakers noted the need for technical assistance. Many speakers reaffirmed the importance of adherence to, and implementation of, the international drug control conventions, which remain the cornerstone of the international drug control system, and called for enhanced international cooperation in drug control, recognizing the relevance of the principle of shared responsibility.

3. International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion

36. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the valuable work of the Board and UNODC on ensuring the availability of drugs for medical and scientific purposes. Some speakers noted with concern that, in many countries, patients requiring pain treatment had no access or insufficient access to analgesics and called for further action in that regard. Reference was made to examples of countries that had implemented successful policies to improve the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as presented in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011. The publication of a guide on estimating requirements for internationally controlled substances by the Board and WHO was noted. The importance of ensuring the availability of test and reference samples for forensic laboratories was also mentioned and the recommendations of the Board in that regard were noted. Attention was drawn to the obstacles facing those in need of pain medication. It was felt that further information-gathering on that subject was needed; the draft questionnaire proposed by UNODC for assessing obstacles to access to pain medication was a welcome initiative in that regard. An invitation was extended to all Member States to provide feedback on it.

4. Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties

37. The representative of WHO referred to its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, which had not been convened since 2006 to assess substances for possible scheduling under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[81] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.[82] The representative informed the meeting that WHO would convene the 35th session of the Expert Committee in

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[81] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[82] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

June 2012 to discuss urgent issues relating to the scheduling of substances such as ketamine. WHO intended to hold the 36th session of the Expert Committee in 2013, in order to address other outstanding issues.

B. Action taken by the Commission

38. At its 9th meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.2/Rev.1) sponsored by Albania, Algeria, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/1.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.)

39. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.4/Rev.1) sponsored by Albania, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), India, Israel, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/3.)

40. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.9/Rev.1) sponsored by Albania, Algeria, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Egypt, Ghana, India, Libya, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/6.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.)

Chapter V

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

41. At its 5th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 14 and 15 March, the Commission considered agenda item 6, which read as follows:

> "Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem:
>
> "(a) Demand reduction and related measures;
>
> "(b) Supply reduction and related measures;
>
> "(c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation."

42. For its consideration of item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2012/2);

(b) Report of the Executive Director on activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2012/3-E/CN.15/2012/3);

(c) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2012/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/CN.7/2012/7);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on follow-up to the promotion of best practices and lessons learned for the sustainability and integrality of alternative development programmes and the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development (E/CN.7/2012/8 and Add.1);

(f) Report of the Executive Director on the Paris Pact initiative (E/CN.7/2012/10);

(g) Report of the Executive Director on improving quality and building monitoring capacity for the collection, reporting and analysis of data on the world drug problem and policy responses to it (E/CN.7/2012/11);

(h) Report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2012/14 and Corr.1);

(i) Report of the Executive Director on responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users (E/CN.7/2012/16 and Corr.1);

(j) Note by the Secretariat on the Paris Pact initiative (E/CN.7/2012/17);

(k) Note by the Secretariat on improving the participatory role of civil society in addressing the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.1);

(l) International Workshop and Conference on Alternative Development in Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, Thailand, 6-11 November 2011 (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.3);

(m) Expert group meeting on basic socio-economic assistance as a precondition for effective drug dependence treatment and related HIV/AIDS prevention, Vienna, 12-14 May 2011 (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.4);

(n) Technical consultation "International standards on drug use prevention", Vienna, 23-25 January 2012 (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.5);

(o) Reports by intergovernmental organizations on drug control activities (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.6).

43. Representatives of the Secretariat made introductory statements. Statements were made by the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and other States), Spain, Uruguay, the United Kingdom, Thailand, Israel, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Austria, China, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, India, Italy, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, the United States, France, Hungary, Japan, Colombia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Turkey, Pakistan, Algeria, Peru and Chile. Statements were also made by the observers for Ecuador (who spoke also on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Malaysia, Portugal, Tunisia, Greece, the Dominican Republic, Lebanon, the Czech Republic, Norway, Cuba, Indonesia, Morocco, Slovenia, Egypt, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), El Salvador, Libya, South Africa, Iraq, Nigeria, Finland, the Philippines and Senegal.

44. Statements were also made by the observers for WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee and the International Harm Reduction Association. The observers representing non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made their statements in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and as endorsed by the extended Bureau of the Commission.

A. Deliberations

1. Demand reduction and related measures

45. Many speakers welcomed the stabilization of the level of use of cocaine and opioids in North America and Western Europe, but expressed concerns about the increase in the non-medical use of prescription drugs and the use of new psychoactive substances that were not under international control and which were often distributed through the Internet. Speakers also expressed concern at the increase in the use of amphetamine-type stimulants, cannabis and cocaine in Asia and Africa and at the increase in the use of drugs among youth and women.

46. Many speakers reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of shared responsibility and a balanced approach in countering the drug problem. Representatives reiterated the importance of implementing demand reduction strategies in line with the goals and targets set out in the Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

47. Representatives emphasized the importance of a health-related approach to drug control, with many Member States reporting the development of, or support for, programmes providing drug dependence treatment as an alternative to criminal justice sanctions.

48. Many speakers noted the need to implement drug demand reduction strategies and policies that were integrated and comprehensive and which covered prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, reintegration and the prevention of the health and social consequences of drug abuse, including, in particular, HIV infection, especially among injecting drug users. Many speakers stated that harm reduction was an important part of the demand reduction strategies and policies of their Governments; several speakers did not agree with that approach and stressed that it was not in accordance with fundamental human rights.

49. Many delegations reported the implementation of the full range of drug demand reduction strategies and stressed the need to scale up policies and programmes based on scientific evidence and respect for the human rights and the dignity of all individuals in need, and welcomed the guidance of UNODC and other United Nations bodies in supporting such action. Many speakers reiterated the importance of quality data and the need to establish drug use monitoring observatories that would enable objective monitoring of the drug situation and the need to build the capacity to collect, analyse and report data on the drug situation and related problems.

50. Many speakers raised the following issues regarding the implementation of demand reduction strategies and policies: the need to promote the participation of youth; the need to develop services responding to the special needs of female drug users; and the crucial role played by civil society and communities.

2. Supply reduction and related measures

51. Many speakers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. Speakers stressed the importance of a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction and reiterated the commitment of their countries to the principle of common and shared responsibility.

52. Many Member States proposed enhancing cooperation on supply reduction strategies by establishing joint task forces to investigate common criminal threats, as well as enhancing bilateral technical assistance and professional capacity-building through joint training programmes.

53. A number of speakers reiterated the commitment of their countries to regional initiatives against illicit trafficking, such as the Paris Pact initiative, the Group of Eight initiative targeting transatlantic cocaine trafficking, the Triangular Initiative

targeting trafficking in heroin from Afghanistan and the UNODC Container Control Programme, as well as the Central American Security Strategy.

54. Many speakers expressed concern at the high levels of illicit drug manufacture, in particular, the growth in amphetamine-type stimulant manufacture. The need to maintain vigilance over precursor chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture was stressed, as was the call for States to review their legal frameworks to ensure that they adequately addressed the spread of new psychoactive substances manufactured using alternative chemical substances. Many speakers expressed concern regarding the challenges posed by the trafficking of cannabis in the African continent as reflected in the UNODC *World Drug Report 2011* and the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011.

55. A number of speakers endorsed the use of the PEN Online system offered through the International Narcotics Control Board for the verification of transactions in precursors. It was observed that illicit trafficking recognized no borders and that in the framework of a globalized economy, criminal groups had acquired considerable freedom to pursue their illegal enterprises.

56. Many speakers called for assistance for transit States whose territories were used in the movement of illicit drugs onward to consumer markets. It was noted that many transit States were now witnessing an increase in drug abuse and related public health problems as a result of spillover from the transit of illegal shipments.

57. Several speakers welcomed the International Seminar-Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development held in Thailand in November 2011 and the proposal by the Governments of Peru and Thailand to host the follow-up International Conference on Alternative Development in Lima in 2012, with the aim of formulating a set of international guiding principles on alternative development to guide policy formulation and the design of field interventions.

58. Several speakers welcomed the proposal of Ecuador to join forces for the implementation of a mechanism to stimulate the dynamics of the international market and to facilitate and protect the production, marketing and consumption of products of licit origin, with aggregate value, originating in affected and vulnerable areas, through a global stamp for products stemming from alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, in accordance with the rules of multilateral trade.

59. Several speakers underlined the importance of sharing best practices and lessons learned on alternative development among Member States in order to increase the effectiveness of programmes and make the best use of resources.

60. Numerous speakers reiterated that integral and sustainable alternative development, including preventive alternative development, was an important tool for generating and promoting legitimate economic opportunities to support marginalized farming communities and improve their socioeconomic situation.

61. Some speakers emphasized that development assistance should be viewed as a long-term endeavour and stressed the need for increased international efforts to support alternative development programmes with a view to sustaining the gains made in illicit crop reduction, and to address the growing problem of illicit cannabis cultivation.

3. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation

62. Many speakers highlighted their concern at the links between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime, including money-laundering. Most delegations emphasized the need for effective international and regional cooperation, as well as bilateral efforts such as the exchange of information between financial intelligence units.

63. Some speakers referred to the global scale of money-laundering, and reference was made to the magnitude of the money being laundered annually, as cited in the recent UNODC research document entitled *Estimating Illicit Financial Flows Resulting from Drug Trafficking and Other Transnational Organized Crimes*. In that regard, the preparation of similar UNODC studies were encouraged, in particular, a study on global centres of money-laundering and the collective international action required to eradicate those centres.

64. Although several speakers noted that their countries had established specialized financial crime units within their law enforcement and judicial authorities, it was also noted that there was a lack of expertise in investigating and prosecuting money-laundering cases.

65. Most speakers expressed the need to have mechanisms in place to identify, trace, seize and confiscate criminal assets, and drew attention to the need to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies to perform those tasks.

66. A few speakers made reference to the importance of having effective systems in place to combat the cross-border transportation of cash and bearer negotiable instruments.

67. Many speakers emphasized the importance of international cooperation in the fight against organized crime, drug trafficking and money-laundering, and called for the harmonization of national legislation to implement relevant international instruments.

68. Several speakers encouraged Member States to use the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[83] as a basis for international cooperation, or to carry out such cooperation through reciprocity and bilateral or multilateral agreements. The importance of the principle of "extradite or prosecute" to deny criminals safe havens was also underscored.

69. Speakers highlighted the importance of confiscation of proceeds of crime, and some speakers suggested that confiscated proceeds of crime be used to effectively combat organized crime.

70. Speakers shared experiences on national and regional cooperation initiatives and highlighted the importance of joint and specialized investigative techniques to combat drug trafficking and money-laundering. Speakers also encouraged Member States to establish specialized investigation and prosecution units.

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[83] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

B. Action taken by the Commission

71. At its 9th meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.3/Rev.1) sponsored by Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Georgia, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/2.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.)

72. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.5/Rev.1) sponsored by Australia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Peru (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Ukraine. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/4.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.)

73. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.8/Rev.1) sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Indonesia, Israel, Liechtenstein, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/5.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.)

74. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.10/Rev.1) sponsored by Albania, Chile, Croatia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Israel, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United States and Uruguay. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/7.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.)

75. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.11/Rev.1) sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Ecuador, Lebanon, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/8.)

76. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.12/Rev.1) sponsored by Australia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Mexico, Peru (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), South Africa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States) and Turkey. (For the text, see chap. I,

sect. B, resolution 55/9.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.) Following the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that he noted with appreciation the content and importance of the draft resolution and expressed his Government's solidarity with the African continent and its wishes to continue collaborating in the fight against the traffic of cocaine in West Africa. With respect to the seventh preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, he emphasized that the links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of transnational organized crime were neither automatic nor permanent but rather needed to be analysed and considered on a case-by-case basis and that the statement in that paragraph was understood within the context and particularities of the African continent.

77. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.13/Rev.1) sponsored by Australia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/10.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.) Following the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that he noted with concern the language recently adopted in Commission documents and draft resolutions, where the terms "drug use", "illicit drug use", "illicit use of drugs", and "drug abuse" were used as synonyms, and emphasized that the correct term that should be used was "drug abuse", as per the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[94] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

78. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.14/Rev.1) sponsored by Australia, Belarus, Canada, Croatia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), India, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Norway, the Russian Federation, Thailand, Ukraine and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/11.) Prior to the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.)

79. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a draft resolution (E/CN.7/2012/L.15) sponsored by Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Israel, Mexico, Norway, Peru, the Russian Federation, the United States and Uruguay. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 55/12.) Prior to the adoption of the draft resolution, a representative of the Secretariat read out a statement on the financial implications of such adoption. (For the text, see E/CN.7/2012/CRP.7, available on the UNODC website.) Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Uruguay made

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[94] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

the following points: treatment for drug abuse was a human right for all individuals, irrespective of their criminal status, and it was part of the process of social reintegration; drug abuse should not be penalized, and treatment should not be compulsory; alternatives to imprisonment should be used for various offences, not only for drug abuse; and treatment should not be linked to punishment. The representative of Colombia stated that his country was a pioneer in penal legislation related to alternatives to imprisonment for drug abusers, and that it was necessary to explore mechanisms outside the sphere of criminal law, since many States did not have options for social reintegration. The representative of Chile congratulated the initiative that the resolution represented and stated that her Government did not understand treatment to be punishment, as it was an alternative enabling the affected individual to have the opportunity to be rehabilitated, and that in her country the implementation of those strategies had been successful.

Chapter VI

World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

80. At its 7th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission considered agenda item 7, entitled "World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission". For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2012/4);

(b) Report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/2012/5).

81. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement on agenda item 7. Statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea and Thailand.

Deliberations

82. Delegations expressed concern about high opium prices, which created an incentive for Afghan farmers to continue to cultivate opium poppy, and the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime. Further concerns included increases in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, the expansion of trafficking in methamphetamine into new markets and reports of consistently high purity of amphetamine-type stimulants. Delegations stressed the need for an integrated multidisciplinary approach to drug law enforcement and for new and innovative national strategies for drug treatment.

83. Delegations expressed the view that the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission offered valuable guidance to States and noted that they had started action to implement the recommendations made by those bodies at their meetings held in 2011.

Chapter VII

Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

84. At its 8th meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Commission considered agenda item 8, entitled "Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission". For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the draft provisional agenda prepared by the extended Bureau of the Commission (E/CN.7/2012/L.16).

85. The Chair of the Commission made an introductory statement, noting that the proposed draft provisional agenda would need to be fine-tuned in the intersessional period. Statements were made by the representatives of Canada and Mexico.

A. Deliberations

86. One speaker noted that in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2011/257, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for its twenty-first session, had adopted the deadline of one month prior to the commencement of the session for the submission of draft resolutions, and suggested that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs could consider adopting a similar deadline for its fifty-sixth session, after evaluating how the practice worked for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

87. One speaker took note of the content of the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission and supported the inclusion of the preparations for the high-level review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem through discussions in a round-table format. The speaker emphasized the need, in the intersessional period, to agree on the exact wording of the topics for discussion by each round table and to organize the conduct of the round-table discussions with a view to making them more action-oriented. Regarding the length and content of the reports on the sessions of the Commission starting at its fifty-sixth session, the speaker expressed support for continuing discussions on options to counter restrictions on the content and length of reports in the framework of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

B. Action taken by the Commission

88. At its 8th meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.7/2012/L.16). (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I.)

Chapter VIII

Other business

89. At its 8th meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Commission considered agenda item 9, entitled "Other business".

90. A statement was made by the representative of Canada.

91. Statements were also made by the observers for Norway and Switzerland.

Deliberations

92. Two speakers emphasized the importance of consultative relations between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, in line with the rules contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. The speakers expressed the view that the least possible discretion should be used in the interpretation of those rules, which should not deviate from the generally established practice of consultations of non-governmental organizations within the United Nations.

93. One speaker made a statement regarding the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 and her Government's robust support for and compliance with the three international drug control conventions.

Chapter IX

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session

94. At its 9th meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Commission considered agenda item 10, entitled "Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session". The Rapporteur introduced the draft report (E/CN.7/2012/L.1 and Add.1-5).

95. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the report on its fifty-fifth session, as orally amended.

hapter X

Organization of the session and administrative matters

A. Informal pre-session consultations

96. At its reconvened fifty-fourth session, held in Vienna on 12 and 13 December 2011, the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the extended Bureau that its fifty-fifth session should be preceded by informal consultations to consider draft resolutions made available in advance of the session, as well as the provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session and an evaluation of its experience with the round-table discussions held at the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions, with a view to determining how the Commission wished to proceed at its fifty-sixth and future sessions.

97. At the informal pre-session consultation chaired by the First Vice-Chair, Antonio García Revilla (Peru), held on 9 March 2012, the Commission conducted a preliminary review of draft resolutions that had been submitted in advance of the session and dealt with organizational matters of the fifty-fifth session.

B. Opening and duration of the session

98. The Commission held its fifty-fifth session in Vienna from 12 to 16 March 2012. The Commission held a total of nine plenary meetings and six meetings of the Committee of the Whole; one meeting was devoted to the round-table discussions. The Chair of the Commission opened the session. At the 1st meeting, on 12 March 2012, opening statements were made by the Executive Director of UNODC, the representatives of Peru (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), South Africa (on behalf of the Group of African States), India (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Asia-Pacific States), the observer for Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and the representative of Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and other States). Statements were also made by Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Victor Hugo Barnica, Vice-President of Honduras; the Minister of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan; the Minister of Justice of Brazil; the Minister of the Interior and Secretary-General of the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Minister to the Prime Minister's Office and Chairman of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; the Director of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation; the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy of the United States; and the Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality of Spain.

99. At the 2nd meeting, on 13 March 2012, opening statements were also made by the Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Narcotics Control of Pakistan; the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; the Executive President of the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA) of Peru; the Director-General of the Anti-Drug Authority of Saudi Arabia; the Chairman of the Committee to Combat Drug Trafficking and Control the Licit Trade in Drugs of

Kazakhstan; the President of the Interdepartmental Mission for the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction of France; the National Commissioner against Addictions of Mexico; Ruth Dreifuss, the former President of Switzerland; and the representatives of Germany and India.

C. Attendance

100. The session was attended by representatives of 48 States members of the Commission (the Democratic Republic of Congo, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone and Swaziland were not represented). Also attending were observers for 73 other States Members of the United Nations, as well as observers for non-member States, 8 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for 13 intergovernmental, 54 non-governmental and 2 other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.7/2012/INF/2.

D. Election of officers

101. The officers of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session were as follows:

Office	*Region*	*Officer*
Chair	Western European and other States	Carmen Buján Freire (Spain)
First Vice-Chair	Latin American and Caribbean States	Antonio García Revilla (Peru)
Second Vice-Chair	African States	Raphael Nakare Dinyando (Namibia)
Third Vice-Chair	Asia-Pacific States	Khamkheuang Bounteum (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
Rapporteur	Eastern European States	Simona Marin (Romania)

102. A group composed of the Chairs of the five regional groups (the representatives of Hungary, India and South Africa, and the observers for Ecuador and Finland), the representative of Denmark (on behalf of the European Union) and the representative of Peru (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) was established to assist the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. During the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, the extended Bureau met on 14 and 15 March 2012 to consider matters related to the organization of work.

E. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

103. At its 1st meeting, on 12 March 2012, the Commission adopted by consensus its provisional agenda and organization of work (E/CN.7/2012/1), which had been approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2011/261.

F. Documentation

104. It was noted that the list of the documents before the Commission at its fifty-fifth session (E/CN.7/2012/CRP.8) would be made available on the UNODC website.

G. Closure of the session

105. At its 9th meeting, on 16 March 2012, a closing statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. A statement was also made by the Minister of Health of Argentina. The Chair of the Commission made closing remarks.